

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Av, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (202) 727-2980  
Fax: (202) 727-6561  
[www.washingtondc.gov](http://www.washingtondc.gov)

## Message from the Mayor

Softball. Swimming pools. Hot dogs with mustard. Leisurely reading. Make-up tests. Ice cream. Beach vacations. Summer camp. For many kids, summer is all of these things and more. For some kids, summer is none of these things.

It takes all of us to care for the District's children to see that they enjoy summer, use the time productively, and ultimately grow into healthy, caring, productive adults.

This summer, the District is dedicating \$6 million to provide daylong programs for 9,000 children and youth, primarily ages 5 – 13. Half of these children will be in programs housed in District public school facilities, while the other half will be participating in programs at community sites. All of these children will receive free nutritious meals coordinated by the State Education Office at public schools or at Parks and Recreation sites. Abe Pollin, chairman of Washington Sports and Entertainment, has pledged to raise \$3 million to provide meals Monday through Friday as well as groceries on the weekend. Sodexo, the leading provider of food and facilities management in the US and Canada, developed a summer meal program five years ago for needy children. This year, Sodexo's "Feeding our Future" program will provide more than 27,000 meals to District young people.

The District's summer school program will serve 8,000 young people with remedial classes designed to support and strengthen the academic performances of students in need of special attention. Summer school will operate for half-days in the morning, for students who are required to attend. Additionally, specialty programs such as Summer Nature Computer Camp, Language Arts and Mathematics Enrichment, Jump Start, Migrant Education, and Bilingual Education are offered.

The District's Department of Parks and Recreation will serve 5,000 children through its summer camps and other programs. There will be 17 camp programs at 86 locations throughout the city. The Department of Parks and Recreation runs 37 aquatic sites, including 20 large outdoor pools, 13 children's pools, and four indoor pools. Summer leagues will include tee ball, little league baseball, adult and intergenerational softball, basketball, and soccer.

Our public libraries will serve an estimated 40,000 children and adults through the Summer Quest Program. The Summer Quest Program helps kids have fun through reading with games, performances, reading lists, and educational events. Each public library branch will be hosting Summer Quest activities throughout the summer.

Additionally, the Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation will help fund academic and cultural programs for 15,000 children. Programs will range from academic enrichment, to music, to computer studies, to field trips out of the city. Programs will take place at public schools and at community sites, and all children attending these programs will get breakfast and lunch through the State Education Office's summer meals program.

Also, the District's Department of Employment Services Passport to Work Youth Employment Program is providing jobs for approximately 5,000 young people in subsidized employment and job-readiness training. This program is designed to offer young people temporary employment and training during the summer to help them develop skills which will ultimately assist in their career goals.

In addition, we are engaging the people who serve our neighborhoods through organizations such as Heads Up, Latin American Youth Center, the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club, and faith-based organizations like City Gate and the DC Black Church Initiative to help our kids enjoy this summer.

For more information about the city's programs for kids, visit the District's website at [www.washingtondc.gov](http://www.washingtondc.gov). We will keep it up to date with the latest information on these programs.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

# Community Profile

## Building a Strong Community

Communication among neighbors is a high priority for Chevy Chase, DC, activist Mary Rowse, who last spring initiated the Chevy Chase Community Listserv, an email bulletin board that enables hundreds of residents to discuss community and citywide issues, such as the drive to reopen the Avalon movie theatre, neighborhood crime, problems with government agencies and business, and doctor recommendations. The community forum gives neighbors a chance to educate themselves and others about a variety of topics. Mary believes her electronic bulletin board has definitely changed and strengthened the community by bringing people closer together as they share and learn from one another. She says it also helps in another way: "Communities that share information in such open forums will be stronger and better prepared to thwart crime and other negative intrusions into their neighborhood."



Mary Rowse

Mary credits the Listserv with reducing crime by raising awareness about how residents can protect against auto theft, theft from autos, robbery, and burglary. At Mary's suggestion, about a half dozen police are also on the Listserv and often write in to report incidents or crime alerts and tips. For example, the Chief of Police for the neighboring Maryland community, Chevy Chase Village, is on the Listserv and often writes in to share information. This police department also proactively monitors the Second District's police radio for any activity near the Maryland border.

Preventing crime is important to Mary, since she's chaired the Chevy Chase Citizens Association's Public Safety Committee for the last two years. During that time, she's helped begin the first comprehensive Neighborhood Watch Program for a single neighborhood in the city.

The Listserv and the Neighborhood Watch Program were designed to work hand-in-hand to bring residents of the community in closer touch on a variety of topics. Mary credits Neighborhood Watch Program Director Samantha Nolan with increasing the number of block captains to 140, with each person taking charge of their own block of neighbors. She expects that in the next year, the number of captains will increase to 250, further connecting neighbors with one another and with useful information on crime, prevention tactics, and other community issues.

Mary says the recent redistricting that divided Chevy Chase into two wards presents an additional challenge to the community to stay united, since so much of what the city offers is ward-based. "What we've learned from this is that neighborhood definitely matters and we're going to be even stronger as a result."

Thanks, Mary, for caring so much about your community!

## Safety Week Program Can Help Everyone Feel More Secure

Recently, I proclaimed June 10-14, "Safety Week" in Washington, DC. The goal of Safety Week is to raise awareness and knowledge of hazards such as carbon monoxide poisoning, house fires, and hit and run accidents caused by cell phone usage, which all contribute to the devastation of families in the metropolitan area.

Annually in the United States nearly 1,000 children under the age of 14 die in house fires and more than 45,000 are injured. Each year, 40,000 people are killed in motor vehicle crashes and over 3 million are injured. The use of child passenger safety belts helped to reduce child occupant fatalities by 16 percent in 2001.

In the Washington metropolitan area, 75 percent of drivers drive at 10 mph or more over the posted speed limit, 40 percent run stop signs, and 50 percent of those running red lights are doing so at 20 mph over the speed limit.

The Metropolitan Police Department and DC Public Schools are working together to bring attention to aggressive and inattentive driving through education, awareness, and enforcement of safety issues and laws.

Moving into the summer months, safety is a key issue with children at play, seniors enjoying the parks, young people riding bikes and tourists visiting the sites. The Safety Week program is one way the District works to help improve the quality of life and well being of every resident.



## LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

# DC Government Launches DC Atlas

DC's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) recently launched the DC Atlas, the District's first and only standardized resource for mapping and location-based information. The DC Atlas is a Web-based suite of tools that works by pooling data from agencies across the District, acting as a central, easy-to-use source to find detailed, useful data for sophisticated planning, and analysis. The DC Atlas is available for use by all District employees with Web access.

Roughly 90 percent of the District's data is geographically based; however, until the DC Atlas was created, agencies lacked a central repository of standardized GIS (Geographic Information System) data. The DC Atlas allows District employees to visualize the way data relates to a specific location, enabling them to more quickly and thoroughly perform needed analysis. The DC Atlas contains data and more than 100 detailed mapping layers categorized by themes such as administrative, education and recreation, planning and economic development, public safety, environmental, real property, socioeconomic and demographic, and transportation.

By placing better information at the fingertips of every District employee, the District will be able to plan and deploy resources more efficiently, and thus offer better services to citizens. Using the DC Atlas, virtually every District agency will find applications to assist them in their work, including crime analysis and urban planning.

For example, during the recent IMF protests, public safety employees, using a specially developed 3-D GIS application, were able to simulate scenarios in and around buildings, enabling them to assess, and develop strategies to manage contingencies.

The DC Atlas is a tool that will ultimately save District resources and benefit citizens in limitless ways, from improving services to District residents to enhancing homeland security efforts. By pointing, clicking and dragging, a great number of District employees will be able to perform sophisticated analysis in a fraction of the time it took just a few months ago. The DC Atlas really puts our technology initiatives on the map.

## District Rolls Out Citywide Street Resurfacing Program and a New Fleet of Tow Cranes

The District is working on a number of fronts to improve the quality of life for residents throughout the city. Earlier this month, I helped inaugurate two such efforts: the citywide street resurfacing program in Ward 8 and the acquisition of a new fleet of tow cranes.

The District's Department of Transportation has already resurfaced over 1,500 blocks of neighborhood streets—that's more than 15 percent of the city streets. This year, thanks to Congresswoman Norton, we will be able to use the \$155 million from the canceled Barney Circle project to help improve our city neighborhood by neighborhood. We allocated \$70 million in 2000 to help maintain 75 miles of the National Highway System in the city, which includes I-295, Connecticut Avenue, and Suitland Parkway. Another \$70 million will go into neighborhood street improvements in all parts of the city over the next year and a half. The remaining \$15 million will go to rehabilitate the Anacostia Freeway from the Maryland/DC line to Chesapeake Street, SW. With a total of \$177 million (\$155 million Barney Circle, \$22 million from a direct congressional appropriation) as well as funds from right-of-way fees, a substantial dent is being made in the longstanding maintenance backlog of our streets. But there still is more work to be done. I will keep you up to date on our efforts.

On June 4, I presented to the citizens of the District our new fleet of tow cranes, which are part of our stepped-up effort to battle the blight caused by abandoned and junk vehicles on District streets. The proliferation of abandoned cars on District streets has reached epidemic proportions throughout the city. The Department of Public Works receives more than 2,000 service requests regarding abandoned vehicles every month. Approximately 45 percent of all of these requests result in a tow.

To battle the problem in the short-term, the Department of Public Works has restructured and relocated its abandoned auto investigators, upgraded technology, and purchased 25 new tow cranes. In the longer term, we are drafting legislation that would allow the District to remove abandoned vehicles more quickly from the street.

The new tow cranes are helping us "fight the blight." In March, with just four tow trucks, we towed 658 vehicles citywide. In April, the first of the new tow trucks and newly trained operators came online. In May, we had 11 trucks on the street and towed over 1,400 vehicles. In addition to increasing the quantity of vehicles towed, we can now remove a range of vehicles we couldn't touch before — larger classes of vehicles — SUV's, trailers, bigger trucks, and step vans. In the past, those vehicles had to wait, remaining even longer in public space, until we could enlist more powerful cranes. The abandoned auto division is also working closely with the Neighborhood Services Initiative and the Environmental Crimes Unit to more quickly locate illegally dumped vehicles and to hold the owners accountable.



# Clean City Poster Awards Contest

On June 12, I presented awards to the winners of the Clean City poster contest.

The Clean City Poster Contest is part of the "Keep Washington, DC, Beautiful" initiative and the Great American Cleanup. Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students were asked to draw posters that represented a clean and revitalized District of Columbia. Some of them were on display in the John A. Wilson Building.

During our nine-week participation in the Great American Cleanup, there were over 100 cleanup events comprised of over 6,000 volunteer hours. There were also a number of contributions by businesses including Home Depot, Giant Food Inc., and the DC Soft Drink Industry.

The artistic ability and the tough messages on trash inspired me. The slogans the students used included: "Keep our city clean!" "I'm going to put this in the trash!" "Would you help me clean up all of this trash!" "Don't drop trash!" "Keep Washington, DC, Beautiful!" "We should never litter!"

All of the posters help us to promote awareness about the city's ongoing cleanup efforts.

The 2002 Great American Cleanup Poster Contest Winners were:

## K-Second Grades Category:

Takoma Elementary School

1<sup>st</sup> Place

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Honorable Mention

Chyna Branck, Kindergarten

Sudi Rodway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Dyana Neville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Daniel Felix, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

## Third-Fifth Grades Category:

Randle Highlands Elementary School

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Ruby Branscomb, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Park View Elementary School

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Armonie Bartlett, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Whittier Elementary School

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Matthew Gaddis, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Honorable Mention

Yadonja Bolden, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Sixth-Eighth Grades Category:

Taft Elementary School

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Carlton Crawley, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Honorable Mention

Leonard Hardy, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Honorable Mention

Allen Brown, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Honorable Mention

Dahimen Byrnes, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Ninth-Twelfth Grades Category:

Phelps Senior High School

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Kevin Branham, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Andreas Evans, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Makita Bauman, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Honorable Mention

Terry Williams, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Community News

- [Mayor Williams Will Announce Plans to Improve Operations at DMV](#)
- [Mayor Presents Balanced Budget, Anacostia Waterfront Initiative to Senate Subcommittee on DC](#)
- [President Appoints Mayor Williams to Homeland Security Council](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.





## District Activities



Mayor Williams and Vince Spaulding, the Clean City Coordinator, congratulate some of the winners of the Clean City Poster Contest.



Members of the book club at N Street Village gather for a photo after their discussion of "Having Our Say," as part of DC We Read 2002.



Mayor Williams makes remarks at the seventh annual 3-on-3 Hoop Dreams Basketball Scholarship Tournament benefiting DC public school students.



Alicia Terry and Mayor Williams make remarks at the groundbreaking of a 119-unit affordable senior housing building at New Jersey Avenue and K Streets, NW.



Mayor Williams helps to pour concrete at an alley near Congress Place, SE, to launch the citywide neighborhood resurfacing program.

## Upcoming Events

06/29	<b>John A. Wilson Building Open House</b> 11:30 am - 2pm 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
06/30	<b>2002 State Day Celebration in Honor of DC</b> 11 am Washington National Cathedral Massachusetts Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, NW  <b>Ms. Senior DC Pageant</b> 2:30 pm UDC Auditorium 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
06/30-07/07	<b>Military Appreciation Days</b> Certain area businesses offer discounts to military and veterans
07/04	<b>Palisades Parade</b> 11 am - Starts at Whitehaven Parkway & MacArthur Boulevard, NW 1 pm - Ends at Palisades Recreation Center, Dana Place & Sherrier Place, NW

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

